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Musket

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Vol. L, Issue 4 April 2008

Natalie Cohen Hired as New Principal

By Mark Fusunyan and Lilia Kilburn

On Wednesday, March 26th, Lexington Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Ash announced that he had hired Natalie K. Cohen, the current assistant principal at Weston High School, to be the next principal at LHS. Cohen is scheduled to replace retiring Principal Michael Jones on the first of July. Ash stated that he personally "poured" himself into the process and agreed to hire the choice recommended to him by the Principal Search Committee because he believed she would be a strong administrator in terms of "curriculum and instruction" who was also a "people person," which he admitted many teachers and students were asking for in a new principal. Ash concluded his remarks about the hiring of Cohen by saying that she is the best person to "help all of us move a great school forward."

The process for screening and selecting the new LHS principal began shortly after Jones announced his plans to retire in early January. The first step was the creation of a small committee of school administrators to review the resumes of prospective applicants so as to screen out those lacking what this group felt were the necessary credentials or administrative experience. The high school's Principal Search Committee was then formed consisting of one administrator, Dean David Lautman, one department head, Gary Simon from the math department, three faculty members, English teacher Robin Strizhak, Science teacher David Colarusso and Special Needs Evaluation Team Coordinator Thomas Totten. Three parents of LHS students also participated in this stage of the process.

The final member added to the committee was senior Ryan Casey, who was selected from among several interested students. Unfortunately, by the time Casey took his seat on the committee the prospective candidates were reduced to just Mrs. Cohen. Still Casey felt he was able to communicate to both the committee and Cohen at the open meetings with her the wishes and concerns of the student body. Said Casey of the experience, "Getting the opportunity to discuss the search with both parents, faculty and administration gave me a wider knowledge of our school not only as a community, but as a system. This newfound knowledge, along with some of the student feedback which I reviewed prior to the final interview, made me realize the naivete of the student body to the purpose and responsbilities of the higher powers within LHS and the Lexington Public School system... Based on my experience with this committee, I think [students] would have a much different outlook on things if they knew just how these decisions are made, what factors play a role and the individual challenges that are presented."

During her all-day visit to LHS on March 18 Cohen impressed faculty and students alike with her clear and honest responses to everyone's questions and concerns. When asked what she would change at LHS she responded that she would like to spend some time getting to know the school and its culture first and would be bringing no set agenda with her to Lexington. Teacher Marshall Dury found Cohen "extremely personable and easy to listen to," and noted her "genuine" interest in improving LHS. Teacher Henry Turner, who knew Cohen previously as his supervisor in a program he is enrolled in for administrative accreditation, expressed enthusiasm about her and noted that she would be "a good person to mediate concerns between administrators, teachers, and students."

Cohen has been serving in her current role at Weston since 2003 and got very favorable reviews from several former LHS teachers who now work in Weston. Prior to taking on her administrative post there Cohen was an English teacher and later the school's English department head. In all Cohen has had over twenty-five years of classroom teaching experience. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in English during the late 1960s and early 1970s at Northwestern University in Illinois.

As a result of the Massachusetts Education Reform Law of 1993, the superintendent can directly appoint whomever he chooses to be a principal in any district school. Ash confided that although the final choice was his and his alone, he listened very carefully to the recommendations of the search committee. Once they had made their feelings abundantly clear by forwarding only Cohen's name to the superintendent, Ash carefully examined her credentials, personal and professional recommendations and spoke at length with a number of people at Weston High. In the end it turned out to be an easy decision.

Lexington High School's next principal, Natalie Cohen, will bring 25 years of experience. Currently the assistant principal at Weston High, she will be our first woman principal.

> ***"[Cohen will] help all of us move a great school forward"***
> *-Superintendent Paul Ash*

At a Student-Faculty Senate meeting on March 12 students and teachers were given an opportunity to meet with the student representative on the search committee, Ryan Casey, to let him know what they wanted to see in a new principal. However, the meeting did have an element of controversy to it in that the search committee had by that point already decided to only forward Cohen's name to the superintendent. This decision was made before Casey was given a chance to play a meaningful role in the process of interviewing and eliminating other prospective candidates. Some students felt that by adding Casey to the committee at such a late date, a student voice in the process was being totally disregarded. One student even called the Senate meeting with Casey "a waste of time."

Senators who feel they have seen a decline in any real influence by the Senate during Dr. Jones's tenure, were particularly bothered by the late selection of the student rep to the committee and the early selection of a final candidate. Senator Andy Wu in voicing the kind of person he, as a senator, would like to see in the next principal said, "We are looking for a principal who is more willing to work with the student body as a whole in order to better facilitate student needs and improve the experience for all here at Lexington High School."

Senator Wu also voiced his displeasure with the way the Senate meeting was handled saying, "At this point, it seems like the selection of a student representative to the Principal Search Committee was purely a disingenuous strategic move designed to give the impression that students had a voice."

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Professional Learning Communties May Take Away Some X-Blocks

By Noah Karr-Kaitin

Recently, Principal Michael Jones and a committee made up primarily of administrators proposed the creation of Professional Learning Communities for LHS teachers next year as a means of addressing student and academic needs in a more formal fashion. While the term Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) may be foreign to many LHS students, the idea of PLCs has been floating around Lexington for quite some time.

As currently projected, PLCs would require faculty members from the same or different departments who teach the same or similar courses at common levels to meet regularly and participate in shared decision-making, course review, material and lesson plan sharing and in developing common assessment tools. Under this plan PLC meetings would require all full-time teachers to meet one hour per week. Ultimately, the goal of the PLCs may be to create more uniformity in instruction and assessment, regardless of the individual teaching styles. Acting English Department Head Dane Despres described PLCs as "a much more sensible way of doing things," and added that he has wished for this kind of formal communication with colleagues since early in his teaching career.

However, the PLC meeting proposal has also encountered some strong opposition from teachers and students. The most controversial aspect of the proposed plan is the use two X-blocks a month as a time for teachers to meet in their PLCs. Several problems with this idea were voiced at a contentious Senate meeting with Dr. Jones on March 19. At that meeting a number of senators pointed out that the X-block plan was in direct conflict with the Lexington High School Constitution that created the Senate and which stipulates that X-block exists in order for Senate to convene and that no other "mandated" teacher or student meetings can be scheduled during that time.

To officially set aside X-block time for PLC meetings would require that the LHS Constitution be

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NEWS

Daikanyama: "Noodles" of Fun

By Rivka Barrett

It seems as if every six months there is a new restaurant in town. The most recent addition is Daikanyama, a Japanese restaurant located on 43 Waltham Street in Lexington Center. Smaller and more intimate than Teppanyaki, Daikanyama opened its doors in February.

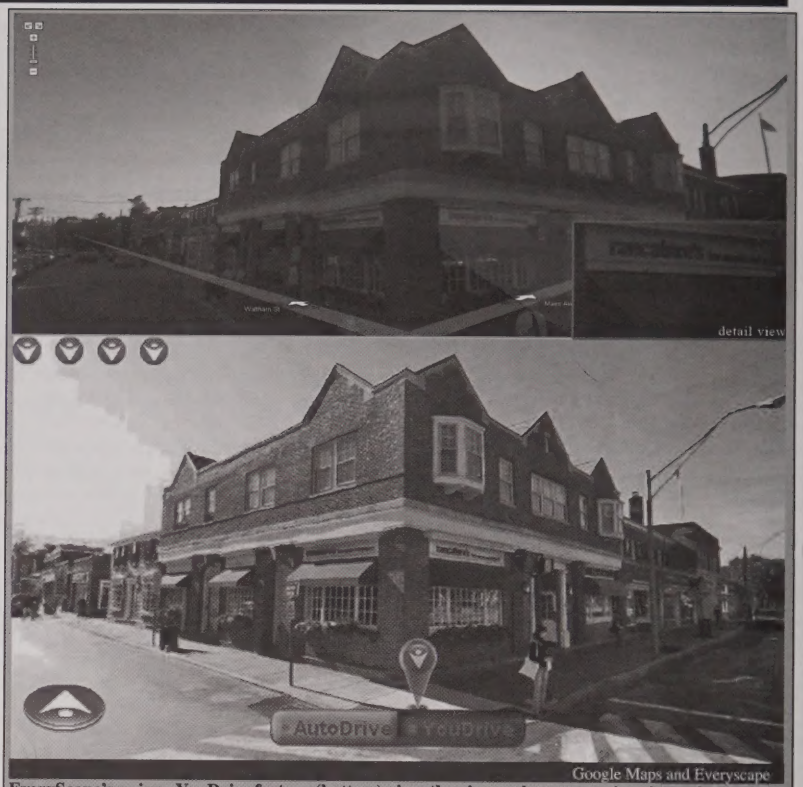
Walking into Daikanyama with my family one night, we find ourselves in a rectangular room with colorful Japanese paintings on the walls. At one end, chefs in white hats make sushi at a counter.

We order two appetizers: Edamame (lightly salted peapods; $4.75), Miso Soup, Gyoza (meat and vegetable dumpling; $6.00), and Shumai (shrimp dumpling; $6.25). The edamame is well seasoned -- with too little salt, edamame can taste very bland. The vegetables in the miso soup are cooked to perfection. My favorite appetizer, the gyoza, is warm and light, with a tangy spiciness added by soy sauce. The shumai is tender and juicy.

When it comes time to order the entrée, we order Udon noodles in soy sauce, topped with vegetable tempura; Ramen noodles with grilled beef and soy sauce, Udon noodles in miso soup with vegetables (We like noodles, what can I say?). Each noodle special is $13.00. The Udon noodles in soy sauce is delicious, with a myriad of ingredients including mushrooms, carrots, and tofu. Normally, I'm not a big fan of tofu, but this tofu is so creamy and thick that I actually enjoy eating it. The Ramen noodles with grilled beef is a little greasy but still very good; the noodles complement the beef. The Udon noodles in miso soup is another successful dish. I'm having a blast slurping those soft, thick noodles – it reminds me of slurping my spaghetti at the dinner table and infuriating my mother.

And of course, the best part: dessert. We order the Mango Mousse Cake ($6.95). A pretty yellow-orange treat, the Mango Mousse Cake is creamy, with a faint taste of mangoes. At Daikanyama, you can pick from such choices as Green Tea ice cream, Fried Bananas, Cheese Blueberry Mousse Cake, and Trilogy Chocolate Mousse Cake (think Death by Chocolate).

So, to sum up: Daikanyama is definitely worth checking out. However, like many restaurants in Lexington, it's pretty expensive – but don't let that stop you! The best thing to do is bring a large group of friends or family members and share a few large dishes. You won't regret it.



Google Maps and Everyscape

EveryScape's unique YouDrive feature (bottom) gives the viewer clearer exterior views of stores like Rancatore's than Google Maps (top)- plus, you can go inside and take a look around.

EveryScape Offers Inside Look at Lexington Center

By Deana LaFauci

In December, EveryScape.com launched its virtual, first-person tour of Lexington Center. EveryScape, Inc., headquartered in Waltham, MA, uses Hypermedia Technology Platform to allow its users to experience eye-level, virtual tours of select locations.

Much like GoogleMaps' Street View, users select a city, and use arrows to "travel" around, viewing storefronts, streets and parking availability. However, there is one major difference between EveryScape's technology and GoogleMaps'. EveryScape allows you to actually enter stores and view their interiors. EveryScape aims to serve not only as a map service, like GoogleMaps, but as an interactive tour which lets users experience a destination without leaving their homes.

EveryScape's technology is refreshingly easy to use. As you move through Lexington Center, helpful icons appear as you approach a store you can "enter", including Not Your Average's Joes and Michelson's Shoes. Once "inside" a store, you can see the merchandise on the walls and tables, and a smiling face of a proud storeowner behind the cash register.

EveryScape's technology also serves as a great aide to Lexington's local tourism, as potential tourists can view the detailed exterior shots of popular historic sites such as Buckman Tavern. Providing virtual access to Lexington Center and its stores is a great way to showcase Lexington"s location and offerings.

In the future EveryScape plans to create an interactive virtual experience by incorporating online shopping and the ability to make restaurant and hotel reservations.

EveryScape technology outshines Google Maps Street View with vivid, bright and clear images. In fact, the only downside to EveryScape's technology is that it still has limited coverage. As of March only eleven virtual tours of cities and towns are offered, including Beijing, China, Laguna Beach, California, the newly added Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Lexington Center. GoogleMaps' Street View continues to be the leader in virtual maps and tours, as their coverage is extremely extensive.

However, EveryScape should not be disregarded due to its limited coverage. EveryScape provides a helpful tool for tourists, business owners and customers in Lexington. As EveryScape expands by adding more virtual tours, interest and respect for this small local company will only grow.

X-Block Threatened

Continued from page 1

amended. Amendments to the constitution can only occur with a 2/3 vote of approval by the Senate, and then separate majority votes from the faculty and the student body as a whole and finally approval by the school committee. Jones did indicate in a private meeting with the Senate Executive Committee that he could avoid this cumbersome process by appealing directly to the school committee without submitting the proposal to the LHS community as a constitutional amendment.

In Dr. Jones remarks to the Senate in support of PLCs he described the proposed utilization of the two X-blocks per month as a "compromise" given that the administration would be giving up one faculty meeting per month and the various curriculum departments would be giving up one department meeting a month in order to use the time for PLCs.

Jones emphasized the need for the implementations of the PLCs at the beginning of next year by citing findings from a recent report on the academic achievement gap at LHS. He claimed that was why the school system felt a dire need for PLCs. At least two faculty senators, social studies teacher Larry David and foreign language teacher Michael Fiveash both said at the Senate meeting that they did not at this point see any "direct linkage" between having PLCs meeting during X-block and remediating the school's "achievement gap."

Nevertheless, Jones persisted in pointing out that it was the academic inequality at LHS that was driving force behind the PLC plan. Suggesting that requiring teachers meet once a week to collaborate would solve academic disparities at LHS caught a few teachers and students off guard. Senator David stated that he found "a problem with the manufactured correlation of closing an achievement gap with PLCs."

By Jones' raising of the issue of the comparatively low academic achievement among METCO students as a need for PLCs, senator and social studies teacher Sam Kafrissen accused the principal of framing the issue in such a way that those who oppose the X-block mandate could be categorized as being "institutionally racist."

Junior Senator Jake Freidman questioned the effectiveness of relying on PLCs, especially those meeting during X-block, to close the achievement gap when in fact many students including a number of METCO students currently use X-block as a time to meet with teachers to make up missed work, tests and quizzes, prepare labs, or just as a time in which they receive extra tutorial assistance. Requiring teachers to give up their "free" X-blocks would remove this valuable out-of-class academic assistance time, Freidman added.

Additionally, the proposed plan would require those faculty members who participate in the Senate to find another meeting time for their PLC group. The Senate's Assistant Moderator, math teacher Michael Normile said that the current proposal could deal a "death blow" to the Senate, by making the recruitment of new, younger faculty senators almost" impossible." At present faculty representation on the Senate is already well below their designated quota. Normile pointed out that some teachers would be forced to choose between participating in the Senate or attending their PLC meetings during X-block.

Assistant Principal Laura Lasa tried to assure the Senate that nothing has been firmly decided yet and that using X-block next year for PLCs may be only a temporary solution until the school has an opportunity to examine altering the current weekly schedule. Lasa added, however, that changing the school schedule could easily be a "two to three year process." At this stage using two X-blocks per month for PLCs is still at the proposal stage. As Senator David pointed out at the March 19 meeting there may also be "contractual issues" involved because such a mandate could constitute a "change in teacher working conditions."

FEATURES

Toby Forman Plays at Grammys

By Abha Gallewale

When LHS senior Toby Forman went to the 50th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California this February, he got to see it all. From the glitz of the red carpet to the glamour of the nominees, Toby got to live a musician's dream in a week filled with concerts, recordings, and the all-important Grammy Awards because of his selection in the Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Ensembles.

Although he did not hear about the opportunity until his freshman year, Toby picked up the alto saxophone at age ten, after admiring his uncle's mastery of the instrument. Beginning his jazz studies in sixth grade, Toby began to practice seriously his sophomore year, preparing him for the Grammy band audition this year.

Some of the perks of acceptance in the Gibson/Baldwin Jazz Ensembles came before Toby departed for Los Angeles. Along with two other Massachusetts ensemble members, the LHS senior was interviewed for the local news channel, CBS, before playing a small set in the television studio. While humbly admitting that the experience was "the scariest thing alive" because of the other instrumentalists' immense talent, Toby believed that the interview was "a good thing to do before [he] went to Los Angeles."

While in California, Toby and the other high school jazz musicians were given the opportunity to play in a number of concerts (after grueling daily four-hour rehearsals to rehearse their repertoire of 8-9 songs), in addition to their recording session at the Capitol Records Studio. The first concert, called "Salute to Jazz," annually honors two current musicians who have made a name for themselves in history. This year, the two honorees, pianist McCoy Tyner and tenor saxophone player Sonny Rollins, rehearsed with the young jazz players. Before the performance, they were entertained by world-famous comedian host Bill Cosby. Other concerts featured alto saxophonist Eric Marienthal, trumpet player and Berklee School of Music graduate Christian Scott, and a benefit for the Starkey Hearing Foundation, which provides hearing aids to families in need. The tunes performed by the Gibson/Baldwin ensemble were among the first sounds that the children heard after receiving their new hearing aids. In return for their service, the players were fitted with custom-made ear phones that fit perfectly into the mold of their individual ears and even got to meet celebrity hip-hop artist Akon, actor Alan Tudyk, and actress Danielle Fishel of Boy Meets World fame at the Grammy Pre-Nominee party. While touring the Staples Center two days before the Grammy Awards, the group met many famous jazz artists, such as Terrence Blanchard, Maria Schneider, John Patitucci, and Herbie Hancock. To top off the whirlwind week, the Grammy Band members walked the red carpet at the Grammy awards and played at one of the Grammy after parties. In fact, their dressing and storage area was adjacent to Stevie Wonder's room!

When soloing with other top mu-

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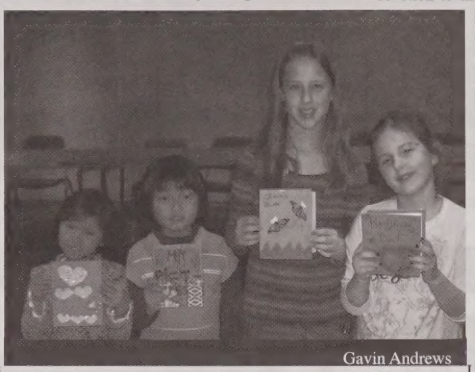
Abha Galewale

Toby Forman earned a coveted Grammy Band spot on saxophone.

Zeybekoglu Displays Books at Peabody-Essex Museum

By Lilia Kilburn

Each February, the Peabody-Essex Museum selects a visiting artist to give a traditional exhibit as well as hold demonstrations and workshops in order to share his/her craft with art enthusiasts of all ages. This year, that artist was none other than LHS' own Annie Zeybekoglu, who creates intricate artists' books. During February vacation, the main atrium of the Peabody-Essex Museum showcased many of Zeybekoglu's books.



Gavin Andrews

Students show off books they created with Zeybekoglu

Zeybekoglu first began making artist's books nearly 25 years ago, after a friend gave her a handmade accordion book from Japan. During her first year, she made a book per day, and has made countless since. This prolificness has allowed her to explore many routes to a finished book.

She doesn't begin a book with a complete idea; rather, she gathers her selfmade book ingredients and sees where they lead her. Says Zeybekoglu, "I always tell my book design class, 'you can't make a mistake I haven't made."

Practically every book one reads is bound by codex binding, which allows for easy storage but little creativity. Book artists break from the confines of this form, choosing a binding not for its practicality but for the way in which it, as Zeybekoglu describes, "verbally and visually contributes to the communication of the book's theme." She notes that "artist's books have the extra challenge of creating a sculptural structure that complements the structure of the book."

Zeybekoglu believes that constant committment to a craft lends meaning to life, whether one is a "plumber or a teacher or a bookmaker." Slow devotion to improvement is present in many art forms worldwide- for example, in Japanese Kabuki theater, an actor must spend ten years operating each of three segments of a puppet before he can be considered a master puppeteer. However, patience is often put aside in favor of the modern "fast-food, quick-fix" mentality.

Ultimately, says Zeybekoglu, making artists' books is about "exploring experiences in a different way." The contents of her books are not just personal, but "vulnerable and approachable," involving the viewer on an intense level. The artist attributes the fun of artists' books to this interactivity- unlike many other types of art, Zeybekoglu's books are meant to be handled.

Students Win Globe *Art Prizes*

By Mia Karnofsky

Lexington High School's own artists often provide the most appealing contrasts to the monotonous brick halls that we see day after day.

At the beginning of this year, murals and photographs began to line the walls of our school, an attractive alternative to the otherwise boring décor. However, these new displays did not take focus away from the window case art exhibits that have always contained student artwork. Anyone who passes through the main building has admired work from LHS art classes. Most recently, students have noticed the entries from the 2008 Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards, which replaced the photographs previously in the main hallway.

The prestigious awards have taken place annually in Massachusetts for 55 years. This year, more than 3,500 middle and high school students participated. They competed within categories such as drawing, photography, painting, and sculpture.

Nine hundred total prizes were given to winners, and some students also received American Visions Awards. A select number of seniors who were compiling a portfolio for college applications collected scholarships for their work.

The most coveted prize, the Gold Key, was awarded to 150 students, including 5 from LHS: Senior Saewon Hwang for her untitled portfolio piece, Junior Abigail Williams for her photograph "Morning Soccer," Senior Ryan Novelline for his drawing "A Devious Self-Portrait," Senior Zev Schwartz for his mixed media piece titled "Self-Portrait," and Freshman Alice McDonald-Games for her drawing "Lucas."

Eleven other entries from LHS were given Silver Keys and Honorable Mentions. These included photographs, drawings, mixed media, and ceramics pieces, and were awarded to Erika Chan, Nikita Nadkarni, Joseph Costello, Molly Blumberg, Stephanie Garland, Leif Hede-Brierley, Nick Doo, and Cindy Garvin. At Diamond Middle School and Clarke Middle School, students received prizes for their work as well.

As we finish up course selection for next year, some of the inspiring pieces have reminded underclassmen of the art classes they hope to take. "I really hope I get the opportunity to take photographs as great as these at school next year," says Sophomore Nancy Kole.

Musket

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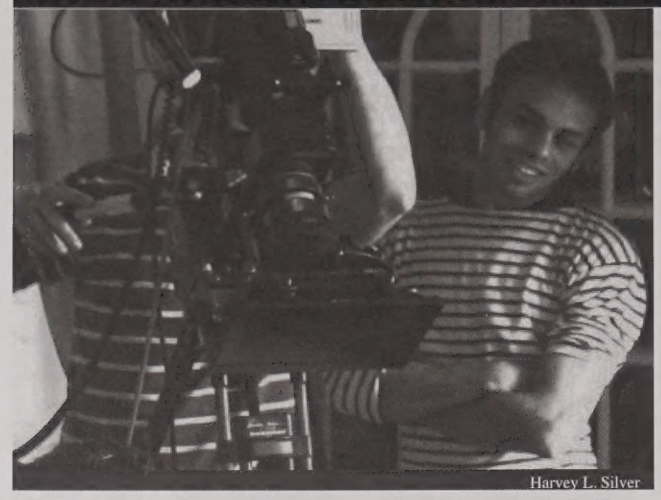
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT/FEATURES


Harvey L. Silver

Nathan Silver (right) conceived and directed Anecdote, a short indie film.

Alum Directs Indie Film

By Rivka Barrett

For those of you who are currently wondering what you're going to do after you graduate from high school, you might want to take some tips from those who have already gone through the process. You might have heard of LHS alums such as punk cabaret singer Amanda Palmer, SNL's Rachel Dratch, and stand-up comedian Eugene Mirman. But now it is time to turn our attention to Nathan Silver ('01), whose independent film *Anecdote* recently won entry into the Slamdance film festival.

Described as a "tragic farce," Anecdote is a somber 30-minute, black-and-white film about the monotony of routine. The film stars Kate Lane ('05) as a law school graduate (named Kate) who fails the Bar exam, and a voice-over narration by Latin teacher Dr. Michael Fiveash is included in the film.

After realizing her dreams have been crushed, Kate is afflicted with what seems to be an unexplainable fever – but whenever she takes her temperature, it is normal. Similar episodes occur throughout the film whenever she experiences chaos in her routine. Kate burns her law books, becomes a maid, and immerses herself in the repetitious nature of her job. She essentially becomes an emotionless robot, "doing for the sake of doing." Once routine no longer works as a defense mechanism for Kate, she suffers a mental breakdown.

Silver, who studied screenwriting at New York University, said his inspiration for the film came from spending a winter in Montreal, reading 19th century novels featuring "suicidal female protagonists." He admits, "I'm obsessed with repetition … I believe that repetition allows for sanity, but as soon as the numbing effect of routine wears off, one is in a dangerous position."

Silver spent five months completing his film. He found most of his cast members through the Art Students' Exchange, headed by his childhood art teacher Connie Lane (her daughter is the protagonist in Anecdote). Silver worked with another LHS alum, David Dahlbom ('01), Director of Photography. Silver recruited Dr. Fiveash as the narrator for his film on the basis of memory. He says, "I remembered his voice, and I'd probably only heard it two times in my life, so I figured that that must mean it's a good voice. And it certainly is."

Silver describes *Anecdote*'s showing at the Slamdance festival as his "first big festival break." Currently, he is planning his first feature film, *The Blind*, to be shot in Massachusetts this August, about "a young couple's inevitable descent into marriage." For more information about Silver and his film, check out his website at:
http://www.anecdotethefilm.com.

Forman At Grammys

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sicians from around the nation, he learned a valuable lesson. Because of the high level of musicality of each of the members in the ensemble, each player had a solo during every concert. Instead of playing his natural technique, Toby tried to "listen to what was playing inside the others' heads" and imitate that. Eventually, he realized that playing like himself and listening to his own ear would always bring him success. Toby's current philosophy regarding performance requires the soloist to be able to sing the tune that he/she wants to play before soloing, although he does believe in experimenting as a growing musician. Gradually, Toby says, the maturing musician will begin to hear the same ideas in their own heads, and be able to rely on his their ear.

The Musket applauds Toby's efforts, wishes him luck, and hopes to hear more of his achievements in the future.

New Principal Hired

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LHS math teacher and senator Jim Williams was also initially displeased with the early selection of the prime candidate for Lexington High School principal. However, he felt that the process up to that point had been appropriate even though the search committee found only one candidate they could support.Williams felt that although there were opportunities to choose more candidates, this process would likely be unnecessary because Superintendent Paul Ash "probably got all the good candidates in the first round" and "the committee was unanimous in recommending the single candidate," from the second round. Most members of the search committee indicated that after interviewing several of the candidates Cohen was "head and shoulders" above the others, so they saw little reason to send more names on to the superintendent. Once she takes her seat in the corner office Natalie Cohen will become the first woman principal in LHS' history.

Presenting Anthony Rapp

By Lily Barrett

In 2006, I watched the film adaptation of the musical *Rent*. The characters, music, and issues stayed with me. Walking between classes, I hummed "Another Day."

I've remained an enthusiastic fan. This March, my friends and I traveled to Boston's Northeastern University to see the actor and singer we knew as Mark, the musical's lovable, bespectacled filmmaker.

Anthony Rapp had written an autobiography, *Without You*. Perusing it, I discovered that he'd watched his mother die from cancer; suffered the shocking loss of his friend, Jonathan Larson, who wrote *Rent*; and witnessed the journey of the musical from off-Broadway to Broadway. He also discussed his sexuality and the impact it had on his family relationships. I hoped the real man was as intriguing.

The moment we seated ourselves in Northeastern's auditorium, Rapp walked onstage to loud cheering. Wearing glasses, black jeans, and a shirt with a red star on it, he greeted us calmly -- "Hello, Boston" -- and launched into singing "Why," by Larson. His voice resonated across the venue.

Afterwards, he introduced his accompanist, who, years ago, had interviewed Rapp for his high school newspaper.

Rapp described his *Rent* audition, joking about his uncertainties surrounding the phrase "rock opera." *Rent* would be his first musical show since high school. He reenacted his audition song, "Losing My Religion," by R.E.M.

That's me in the corner
That's me in the spotlight
Losing my religion

Rapp admitted that during the audition, he'd accidentally jumped a verse, "Which I didn't do just now," he quipped. Sobering up, he expressed his wish to honor Larson's legacy. Larson had written "What You Own" for Rapp, telephoning him early one morning to share the song with him. Rapp serenaded us with several songs from the musical, including "What You Own," "Without You" and "Seasons of Love."

Rapp also sang a chilling song he'd written, with the help of a Guster band member, about his mother's decline:

Is this another time
Or is this the last time?
How much more time?

Lighter moments followed. Rapp performed a hilarious imitation of Courtney Love's "I'm Miss World" and crooned "Happiness" from *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He left stage but returned for an encore.

Lining up for autographs, my friends and I gushed about Rapp's sweetness and keen sense of humor. We couldn't wait to meet him.

When my friend handed Rapp her book to sign, she asked, "Do you ever get stage fright?"

Looking uncomfortable, he blurted, "No."

The contrast between Rapp's confident onstage persona and his off-stage persona makes sense to me. In his memoir, he confesses, "My love of acting was an escape of sorts. I'd been doing it since I was a kid, and it felt natural for me to be onstage ... but offstage I often felt like a small, pale dork."

Not only is Anthony Rapp a talented artist, he is a human being. Somehow, that image of him has rendered me more star-struck than the first time I saw "Rent."

Tim Kenny

Several of the founders of LHS' music magazine (lhsmusicmagazine.com)

Students Start Music Magazine

By Abha Gallewale

Concerts, jamborees, band nights. Whatever the event, the Lexington High School Music Department has always succeeded in impressing its audience, silencing its critics and, most importantly, inspiring and motivating students to make music an enriching part of their lives. This February, ten LHS music students founded a publication dedicated to bringing the musical excellence of the department to greater public awareness.

The new LHS Music Magazine covers all of the latest happenings in a cappella, band, chorus, jazz, and orchestra, in addition to independent student bands. Unlike the other publications at the high school, the LHS Music Magazine can be found online (www.lhsmusicmagazine.com) and can be accessed by students anytime and anywhere. Because of the flexibility of the Internet, the magazine provides photo galleries of musical events around the high school and is updated with new articles weekly, keeping readers up to date. Other features include alumni interviews, full performance schedules, and information of upcoming concerts around Boston in which LHS students are interested. Also in the Magazine, current students are interviewed, as are the noteworthy, professional musicians that LHS music students are fortunate enough to interact with during the school year.

In the future, the Magazine will feature recordings, videos, monthly email newsletters, information about nearby music stores, as well as details regarding musical opportunities outside of school. Check out the magazine today!

Student contribution is greatly encouraged and appreciated. If you have any pictures or comments about the magazine that you would like to share, please contact the editors at lhsmusicmagazine@gmail.com.

EDITORIALS

Hillary Clinton is Ready to Lead

By Molly Siegel

I'll admit, when Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama began competing for the Democratic nomination, I was touched by Obama's hypnotic speeches. However, as the campaign unfolded and I saw past his rich baritone, Clinton's experience and tough stances on certain issues won my support.

Clinton backs her positions on important issues with a sound voting record and commendable actions. For instance, her support for gay rights has been much more consistent than Obama's. True, they both support civil unions, but Clinton has surpassed this. She voted to repeal the military's 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy, proclaiming, "Gay soldiers need to shoot straight, not be straight." Obama avoided taking a definitive position. As New York's Senator, Clinton acted upon concerns regarding the high suicide rate of gay teens in the state. Although he preaches against hate, Obama refused to be photographed with Gavin Newsom, the openly gay Mayor of San Francisco.

Obama's oratory skill has convinced many Americans that three years in the U.S. Senate and a great keynote address (2004) produce a successful leader. Youthful and charismatic, he has been compared to John F. Kennedy. But Obama is no Kennedy. Kennedy had far greater experience, serving in the House and Senate for fourteen years before he became President.

Clinton, however, has earned her reference to a Kennedy great. Environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. endorsed Clinton, comparing her to his father, Bobby Kennedy. RFK Jr. believes that Clinton possesses the strengths necessary to end the war and reverse global warming.

Although some say otherwise, Clinton is the most electable candidate against Republican John McCain. Skewed logic implies that Obama, with no foreign policy experience, could combat well-weathered McCain. McCain's campaign will pinpoint national security. Clinton matches McCain on safety, and, furthermore, she wouldn't cease her fight to bring our troops home and repair our health care system. She would stand firm. Clinton is the candidate to end the too-long Republican management of the White House.

Clinton has endured the media spotlight for two decades. Every aspect of her personal and political life has been scrutinized, yet she remains an excellent politician. Obama's charms have made him media darling today, but Clinton has done admirably without the false luxury of pandering. When the hype surrounding "fired up and ready to go" dissipates, Obama will stand vulnerable; as veteran, Clinton can deal with the pressure.

People have called Clinton "shrill" or "ego-driven."" The public is simply unused to seeing a woman promote herself, as every politician must. By electing Clinton, we can reverse this underlying sexism for the next generation of promising young women.

This race has highlighted the idea of "hope." I'm all for hope. But Obama's brand of hope means crossing our fingers that paltry experience and windy speeches can translate into an effective presidency. Our country is broken. We need hope, but we need substantive hope. We don"t have time for a President who hasn't learned the ropes. Hillary Clinton has proven that she can provide real accomplishments.

Why You Should Barack The Vote

By Noah Karr-Kaitin and Lilia Kilburn

Who would have predicted that the greatest obstacle to putting a woman or a minority in the White House would be another historic candidacy? Yet, here we are with a black man, Barack Obama, and a woman, Hillary Clinton, all but deadlocked in their quest for the Democratic Party's nomination for president. Once seen as a shoe-in, Clinton's pace has been seriously slowed by the surprisingly strong Obama candidacy. As syndicated columnist Mark Steyn explained recently, "The Dems found a new star ...Barack Obama came along, and did what the Clintons did in 1992 – saw his opportunity and seized it."

Few young people were truly excited about John Kerry's candidacy in 2004, while this year there are two remarkable figures on the Democratic side. As noted by acting English Department Head Dane Despres, "One big difference between this year and 2004 is that kids are psyched about candidates and their views rather than being concerned with the other party's agenda." But it is Obama, as New Mexico governor and former presidential hopeful Bill Richardson pointed out in his recent endorsement speech, "who can bring us the change we so desperately need by bringing us together as a nation here at home and with our allies abroad."

The Republican nominee Senator John McCain, with some help from the Clinton camp, has attempted to paint Obama as an inexperienced candidate whose victories can be attributed to the "rabid but misguided" hope that he inspires in voters. Some even fear that if Obama reaches the White House, it will be because he is some sort of demagogue whose lack of substance will somehow undermine American democracy itself. These same cynics take the relative youth of Obama's supporters as evidence that he and his message are too idealistic.

However, Obama's forceful rhetoric is but one aspect of his candidacy. Once drawn in by his speeches, voters have found compelling policy reasons to stick with him. Alongside Obama's speeches about racial division and his messages of hope, which McCain dismisses as "platitudes," are policies firmly grounded in reality. In fact, if one "read side-by-side with the other candidates' current stump speeches, the Obama script makes at least as many references to policy proposals as do theirs," wrote Tribune correspondents Christi Parsons and John McCormick.

Though Obama's charm and fascinating life story certainly buoy his popularity, when asked why they support Senator Obama, students also cited the substance of his policy proposals. Said Senior Idan Warsawski, "It's not like a personal connection or anything - most politicians are sleazy. But Obama is less so. He's a very good speaker on his feet, which I think is better at this point than experience, because the US's standing has gone down in the international community." After expressing satisfaction with Obama's proposal to withdraw American troops from Iraq more swiftly than his opponents, Senior Grant Patch added, "He's brought so many people together through a grassroots campaign. How could you listen to this man and not love him?"

For many students their devotion to Obama is tempered somewhat by cautious optimism. Senior Jake Brown pondered Obama's

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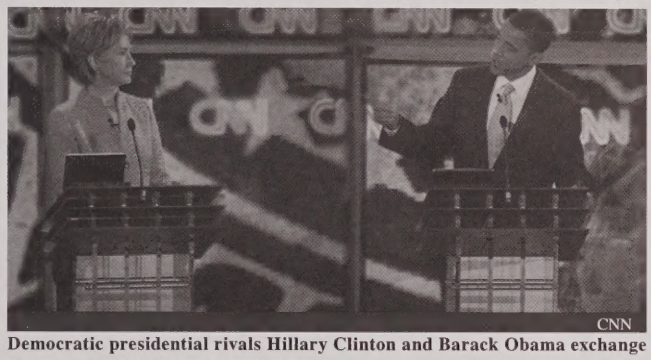
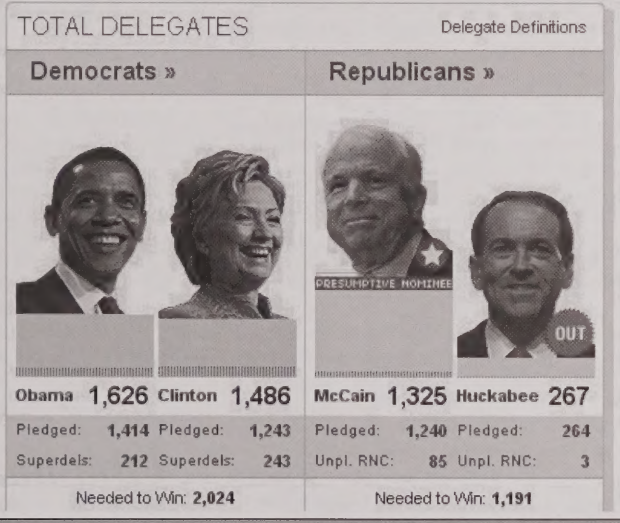


Democratic presidential rivals Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama exchange views at one of their many debates.



School Hit by Hateful Graffiti

Police are currently investigating the incident that occurred on April Fool's Day. Janitors blacked out the offensive graffitti, which identified specific students.

SPORTS

Courtesy of Team Website

Goalie Nina Riley's outstanding play in the net helped girls have such a great season.

Girls Hockey Team Drops Close Game

Loses to Arlington 2-0 in Tourney

After completing a highly successful regular season by winning the Middlesex League title the girls hockey team dropped a disappointing 2-0 loss to Arlington in the quarterfinals of the Division One tournament.

The girls' defense and their outstanding goalie Nina Riley were superb throughout the contest against the neighboring Spy Ponders but the girls were just unable to put any goals into their opponent's net.

Lexington carried the action for most of the game and clearly had a number of scoring chances but could never fully capitalize, even when they had a skater advantage on the ice. Coach Jay Pelkey was disappointed to the degree that Lexington had so many power play opportunities that they just couldn't convert.

In this game the offense was keyed by the line of Lindsay Keegan, Elise Cormier and Brudgett Everett, while the solid defense was held down all night by the excellent play of Meghan McNabb and Kyleigh Williams. Sammy Woodward also played a strong offensive game for the Minutemaid skaters.

Riley and Woodward both earned All-Middlesex League honors for their outstanding play this past season.

With so many underclass girls on the ice, Lexington's opponents will have to keep a close eye on a team that promises to go much further in the post-season next year.

Girls Varsity Basketball Defeated In Semifinals

The Lexington High girls basketball team advanced to the Division One North Sectional semifinals this past winter before being overwhelmed by a taller and superior Central Catholic squad. The final score was 68-48, but still the Minuetmaids had a lot to be proud of having advanced further into the tournament than they had in years.

The first half of the Central Catholic game was quite close with both teams exchanging early leads. At the half the eventual winners held but a one point, 35-34 advantage. However, the local girls came apart in the second half in the teeth of a vicious fast break attack by Catholic. Still, to the Lexington girls there was some solace in the fact that the final twenty point spread did not reflect how well Lexington had played against their higher ranked opponents.

Part of what hurt Lexington was the fact that two of their most important players, Stacey Linehan and Nena Ugwuomo, fell into early foul trouble. This forced coach Paul McMahon to sit them at key times during the second half, and even when the two were on the floor they could not play their usual aggressive defense.

Despite the tournament loss the girls had a highly successful season and one they can surely be proud of. As Ugwuomo said in reflecting back on the team's run, "It was a great season. It was the most fun I've ever had playing basketball for LHS. Everyone worked so hard; that's why we advanced as far as we did." Other performers who came up big for the Minutemaid hoopsters this year were Micaela Cyr, Alyssa Zahka and Andrea Athens.

Prior to the loss to Central Catholic the girls rolled over a strong Peabody team 46-43 in a quarterfinal game at Lexington. This match was also very close until the Minutemaids ran the table on their rivals by scoring the last ten points to overcome a late fourth quarter lead that the visitors had held practically throughout the second half. Ugwuomo led all scorers in this one with 21 points while Cyr added 11 others.

In the first round of the tournament the girls overwhelmed Lynn Classical in a lopsided 54-31 victory. Ugwuomo again led all scorers with 22 points, followed by Linehan with 10 and Cyr and Zahka who racked up 9 apiece. Both Cyr and Ugwuomo were rewarded for their fine play this season by being named to the Middlesex League All-Star team at the end of the season.

Boys Basketball Falls to Experienced Lowell

The Lexington boys basketball team ran into a meat grinder against a senior dominated Lowell team in the semifinals of the Division One North post-season tournament. The final score was 75-59 in a game that was never really ever close.

Nevertheless, Lexington coach Bob Farias was not disappointed given the lack of experience on this year's team. Lexington had been decimated by the graduation of so many seniors from last year's undefeated squad so the mere fact that this year's boys advanced as far as they did was cause for celebration. Even more importantly it sets the Minutemen up as the team to beat in the Middlesex League next year.

The Lowell loss was the culmination of a peculiar year for the Middlesex League as a whole.

Four highly rated league teams qualified for the post-season tournaments in the three different divisions. League champion Watertown made the EMass finals in Division Three only to lose to a tough Scituate squad. Meanwhile Reading and Wakefield, two teams the Minuteman had beaten earlier this year made it to the EMass Division Two semis where they battled it out against one another. Unfortunately, Lexington made it only as far as the North Sectional semis.

Although the Minutemen trailed Lowell throughout, there was no quit in the team as starters Danny O'Keefe, Scott Tavares, David Miller, Mike Igoe and Lance Green played their hearts out. O'Keefe led the Lexington scoring with 22 points. Green, O'Keefe and Tavares were all named to the Middlesex League all-star team after the season.

With all of their key players returning next year, the Minutemen have certainly served notice that they will be a team to be reckoned with.

Sports Briefs

By Simon Lehar

Wrestling

Senior Jorge Hernandez, wrestling in the monster 285 lb. weight class, became one of the first Lexington wrestlers in a number of years to qualify for the New England wrestling championships this past winter. Hernandez qualified for this tournament by taking a sixth place in the Massachusetts All-State tournament the week before.

The All States pits the best six wrestlers in each weight class from the three separate state divisions in Massachusetts. Hernandez had finished a highly respectable third in the Division One states to qualify for the All-States. For his efforts he was recently named as a Middlesex League all-star in his weight class.

Earlier he team advanced six wrestlers from the Division One Central sectionals to the state tournment. Among those who made the trip to the states in addition to Hernandez were Derek Campbell, Joey DeCarlo, Co-captain Marq Bittarelli, Nick Bouton and Co=captain Cameron Rawnsley. Only DeCarlo and Hernandez, however, were able to advance to the second day of competition.

Winter Sports All-Stars

A large number of Lexington winter sports athletes were honored by the Boston Globe in its recent All-Scholastic selections for the winter season. Aside from those honorees mentioned elsewhere on this page several other LHS athletes were recognized as Middlesex League All-Stars. In indoor track the girls team placed Menemsha McBain, Naomi Campbell, Ana Kouri, Anna Sheridan, Erika Chan, Lucile Cancre, Martha Zimmerman, Sarah Heingartner and Allyson Crook on the Middlesex League team. On the boys side runners Daishawn Beaumont, Steve McKenna and Dhyan Adler-Belendez received league recognition. A large contingent of the league champion Lexington swimmers were named as all-stars. Among them were Apoorv Kumar, Dickson Law, Michael Lin, Greg Lowen, Dan Mock, Taylor Patch, Mike Pogran, Alec Tandra-Kuhns, David Wang, Mike Woodbury and Frank Lin.

Boys Hockey

The Boys Hockey team missed the tournament for the second year in a row. With a win against league rival Burlington in the last game of the regular season, they would have been tournament bound, but it ended with a tie. The Minutemen ended the season with an 8-9-2 record. They were led by seniors Curt Everett, Tyler Gelnaw, Greg Johnson, Tas Tobey, Mike Gabriner, Jon Dodson, Cory Woodward, Ryan McNabb, Gavin Baxter-King, and Dylan Wood.

Obama

Continued from page 5

personal significance before saying: "For me, 'Why Obama?' is a two-pronged question...I decided to vote for him because he preaches a foreign policy that is more humble and considerate than America's has been in the past...I love him because he is going beyond the nitty-gritty bare bones of politics and talking about finer values such as racial equality, hope, and new politics. "

No doubt Obama's rival for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton, boasts an impressive resume, and she is quick to point out that she's been "vetted." But is a long resume the best weapon against partisan politics? You've heard it before - Dick Cheney has one of the longest resumes around, while some presidents considered great or near great like Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt all had somewhat limited political experience before coming to the White House. Clinton's familiarity with Washington may just mean entrenchment in the past with all its partisanship, divisiveness and isolation from the rest of America. The president's role as a symbol of America often equals or exceeds that of a policy maker. So, while Obama and Clinton articulate similar policy positions, Obama has the ability to gather a diverse coalition of supporters nationally, as well as captivate the global community. If nothing else, Obama has already ignited previously untapped political enthusiasm within our own student body.